



Idaho Potatoes

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IDAHO RUSSET POTATO SIZE AND GRADE SUMMARY – 2009 CROP

The statistics in this publication were obtained from the 2009 Potato Objective Yield Survey. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service would like to thank all growers who allowed the enumerators to dig samples in their fields. Without the voluntary cooperation of the farmers themselves, obtaining valid and timely agricultural statistics would be much more difficult. Because the samples of potatoes were dug by hand, the size and grade statistics in this document do not reflect harvesting or handling damage.

The survey results showed for the 2009 crop, 23.2 percent of the russet potatoes were at least ten ounces, down from 28.1 percent that reached that size in 2008. Of the Russet potatoes in the 2009 sample, 76.6 percent met the 2.0 inch or 4 oz. minimum size and grade requirements for U.S. No. 1 potatoes, up from 70.3 percent last year. Processing grade and U.S. No. 2 potatoes, with a 1.5 inch minimum, accounted for 17.3 percent of the 2009 crop.

PROCEDURE

The 2009 Potato Objective Yield Survey consisted of 268 samples located throughout Idaho in fields selected in an unbiased and random manner. The selection of sample fields was based on all known potato acreage planted in 2009, with each acre having an equal chance of being chosen. As a result, growers with large acreages were more likely to be selected to participate in this survey. Several sample fields with varieties other than Russet were selected, but only the reports with Russet potatoes were used to compile the data in Tables 1 and 2. For each sample field, two plots were systematically located using computer generated random numbers. Each plot consisted of a twenty-foot section of a row. Digging of all samples occurred immediately preceding harvest or when all vines had died and growth of the tubers was no longer possible. Three hills of potatoes from each twenty-foot row section were carefully dug, counted, weighed, and then graded according to U.S.D.A. standards. Potatoes less than 1.5 inches in diameter were excluded from this procedure. To measure the harvest loss, post-harvest gleanings were taken for every fourth sample. The gleaning area consisted of two 3-by-6-foot plots, located five paces and five row space equivalents beyond the plots where the potato hills were dug. All potatoes and potato pieces, except whole potatoes less than 1.5 inches in diameter, were collected, weighed, and graded. Geographic distribution of the 2009 sample fields is shown in the following table.

AREA	COUNTIES	NUMBER OF SAMPLE PLOTS
Southwest	Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington	32
South Central	Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka & Twin Falls	56
Eastern	Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Oneida & Power	133
Eastern Seed Counties	Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Lemhi & Teton	47

TABLE 1 – IDAHO RUSSET POTATOES: SIZE AND GRADE – 2009 CROP ^{1/}

AREA AND GRADE	1½" - 15/8"	15/8" - 17/8"	17/8" - 2"	2" or 4-6 Oz	6-7 Oz	7-8 Oz	8-9 oz	9-10 oz	10-11 Oz	11-12 oz	12-13 Oz	13-14 oz	14 oz and over	Total
	Percentages (%)													
SOUTH CENTRAL COUNTIES														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) ^{2/}	-	-	-	22.6	9.4	9.0	8.5	6.9	5.3	4.2	3.7	2.4	8.2	80.2
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) ^{3/}	0.7	5.0	4.4	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.6	15.7
Cull ^{4/}	0.1	0.4	0.3	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	-	0.1	0.1	0.9	4.1
TOTAL	0.8	5.4	4.7	24.7	10.3	9.6	9.2	7.4	6.0	4.6	4.0	2.6	10.7	100.0
EASTERN COUNTIES														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) ^{2/}	-	-	-	27.6	9.3	8.6	6.4	5.8	4.5	2.8	2.3	2.2	5.8	75.3
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) ^{3/}	1.2	6.1	5.0	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.0	17.5
Cull ^{4/}	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.8	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.3	7.2
TOTAL	1.4	6.6	5.5	30.4	10.8	9.6	7.2	6.6	5.4	3.1	2.7	2.6	8.1	100.0
EASTERN SEED COUNTIES														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) ^{2/}	-	-	-	30.8	10.4	8.1	5.4	5.6	3.3	2.7	1.6	1.2	4.6	73.7
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) ^{3/}	1.1	6.8	6.4	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2	1.4	19.6
Cull ^{4/}	0.1	0.5	0.6	2.4	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.6	6.7
TOTAL	1.2	7.3	7.0	34.1	11.4	9.0	5.8	6.5	3.9	3.5	2.2	1.5	6.6	100.0
TOTAL OTHER COUNTIES														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) ^{2/}	-	-	-	26.8	9.5	8.6	6.8	6.1	4.5	3.1	2.6	2.1	6.3	76.4
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) ^{3/}	1.1	5.9	5.1	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.2	17.4
Cull ^{4/}	0.2	0.5	0.4	1.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	6.2
TOTAL	1.3	6.4	5.5	29.5	10.8	9.5	7.5	6.8	5.3	3.5	3.0	2.4	8.5	100.0
10 SOUTHWEST COUNTIES														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) ^{2/}	-	-	-	18.6	9.1	8.5	6.5	7.1	5.8	3.9	5.2	3.2	14.2	82.1
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) ^{3/}	0.9	3.4	3.3	1.3	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.1	1.6	14.7
Cull ^{4/}	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	-	0.2	-	0.1	3.2
TOTAL	1.0	3.9	3.8	20.7	10.0	9.2	7.8	7.9	6.5	4.2	5.8	3.3	15.9	100.0
STATE														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) ^{2/}	-	-	-	26.5	9.6	8.6	6.8	6.1	4.5	3.2	2.7	2.1	6.5	76.6
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) ^{3/}	1.0	5.8	5.1	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.3	17.3
Cull ^{4/}	0.2	0.5	0.4	1.7	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	6.1
TOTAL	1.2	6.3	5.5	29.2	10.8	9.5	7.5	6.8	5.3	3.6	3.1	2.4	8.8	100.0

1/ Gross yield basis.

2/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

3/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #2 or Process grade, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

4/ Potatoes not meeting the requirements for U.S. #1, U.S. #2, or Process grade, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

TABLE 2 – IDAHO RUSSET POTATOES: SIZE AND GRADE – 2008 CROP ^{1/}

AREA AND GRADE	1½" - 15/8"	15/8" - 17/8"	17/8" - 2"	2" or 4-6 oz	6-7 Oz	7-8 Oz	8-9 oz	9-10 oz	10-11 Oz	11-12 oz	12-13 oz	13-14 Oz	14 oz and over	Total
	Percentages (%)													
SOUTH CENTRAL COUNTIES														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) ^{2/}	-	-	-	16.5	7.4	7.1	6.7	6.1	4.3	4.3	4.4	3.0	12.5	72.3
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) ^{3/}	0.8	3.7	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.6	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.6	3.7	20.0
Cull ^{4/}	0.1	0.5	0.5	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.4	1.4	7.7
TOTAL	0.9	4.2	3.5	20.0	9.0	8.2	8.0	7.9	5.5	5.7	5.5	4.0	17.6	100.0
EASTERN COUNTIES														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) ^{2/}	-	-	-	24.0	8.3	7.6	6.5	5.6	4.3	2.7	2.0	2.0	7.0	70.0
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) ^{3/}	1.1	5.5	4.5	1.8	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	2.2	20.3
Cull ^{4/}	0.2	0.9	0.8	2.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.6	9.7
TOTAL	1.3	6.4	5.3	28.7	10.1	8.9	7.9	7.3	5.4	3.5	2.8	2.6	9.8	100.0
EASTERN SEED COUNTIES														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) ^{2/}	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.6	8.2	6.9	5.1	3.7	3.5	2.9	2.0	2.1	4.4	66.4
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) ^{3/}	1.6	8.5	7.1	1.8	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.2	1.0	23.3
Cull ^{4/}	0.1	0.9	0.5	1.7	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.1	2.3	10.3
TOTAL	1.7	9.4	7.6	31.1	9.5	8.2	5.9	5.4	4.4	3.6	3.1	2.4	7.7	100.0
TOTAL OTHER COUNTIES														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) ^{2/}	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.4	8.0	7.3	6.3	5.4	4.1	3.2	2.8	2.3	8.2	70.0
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) ^{3/}	1.1	5.5	4.5	1.9	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	2.5	20.8
Cull ^{4/}	0.2	0.8	0.7	2.2	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	1.2	9.2
TOTAL	1.3	6.3	5.2	26.5	9.6	8.5	7.5	7.1	5.2	4.2	3.7	3.0	11.9	100.0
10 SOUTHWEST COUNTIES														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) ^{2/}	-	-	-	20.6	9.4	7.6	7.0	7.2	4.6	5.2	4.6	3.3	10.6	80.1
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) ^{3/}	1.0	4.5	3.3	1.5	0.3	0.4	1.0	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	2.0	16.6
Cull ^{4/}	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.4	3.3
TOTAL	1.1	4.9	3.7	22.9	10.0	8.3	8.3	8.2	5.0	5.6	5.2	3.8	13.0	100.0
STATE														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) ^{2/}	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.3	8.1	7.3	6.3	5.4	4.2	3.2	2.8	2.4	8.3	70.3
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) ^{3/}	1.1	5.5	4.5	1.9	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	2.4	20.6
Cull ^{4/}	0.2	0.7	0.7	2.2	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	1.2	9.1
TOTAL	1.3	6.2	5.2	26.4	9.7	8.5	7.5	7.1	5.3	4.2	3.7	3.0	11.9	100.0

1/ Gross yield basis.

2/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

3/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #2 or Process grade, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

4/ Potatoes not meeting the requirements for U.S. #1, U.S. #2, or Process grade, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

**TABLE 3 – IDAHO POTATOES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF HILLS
PER ACRE BY TYPE 2008 & 2009 CROPS ^{1/}**

TYPE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES		AVERAGE NUMBERS OF HILLS PER ACRE	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Reds 2/		5		17,938
Whites	10	9	12,682	12,142
Yellows 3/				
Russets	270	253	12,536	12,940
TOTAL	284	268	12,613	13,011

1/ Based on row measurements and counts in potato fields selected for objective yield samples.

2/ Insufficient number of reports to publish data for 2008.

3/ Insufficient number of reports to publish data.

TABLE 4 – IDAHO ALL POTATOES: QUANTITY LEFT IN FIELD AFTER HARVEST – 2008 & 2009 CROPS ^{1/}

AREA	2008 CROP		2009 CROP	
	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	CWT PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	CWT PER ACRE
Southwest	9	25	8	19
South Central	15	29	13	17
Eastern	30	33	31	33
Seed Co.'s	12	28	11	24
STATE	66	30	63	26

1/ Potatoes left in the field at time of harvest. Based on counts in potato fields selected for post harvest samples.

TABLE 5 – SELECTED STATES LONG POTATOES (RUSSET & SHEPODY) - 2009 CROP ^{1/}

STATE	1½"	15/8"	17/8"	2" or 4-6 oz	6-7 Oz	7-8 oz	8-9 Oz	9-10 oz	10-11" Oz	11-12 oz	12-13 oz	13-14 Oz	14 oz and over	Total
	1 5/8"	1 7/8	2"											
	Percentages (%)													
ID 2/	1.2	6.3	5.5	29.2	10.8	9.5	7.5	6.8	5.3	3.6	3.1	2.4	8.8	100.0
MN	1.3	5.1	4.4	25.3	11.0	10.1	8.9	7.6	7.0	4.6	3.5	2.5	8.7	100.0
ND	0.9	6.2	5.1	29.2	10.4	10.3	8.9	6.9	5.4	3.4	3.5	2.2	7.6	100.0
OR	1.2	4.0	3.6	22.4	9.2	8.0	7.6	6.5	7.1	5.3	4.4	4.3	16.4	100.0
WA	0.5	2.8	3.0	21.7	9.6	8.8	8.4	7.2	6.8	5.5	5.1	3.7	16.9	100.0
WI	0.9	4.3	4.4	29.3	10.9	9.3	7.3	6.7	6.3	4.4	3.8	2.4	10.0	100.0

1/ Gross yield basis.

2/ Russets only.

TABLE 6 – SELECTED STATES GRADING CATEGORIES - 2009 CROP ^{1/}

AREA AND GRADE	U.S. NO. 1 2 INCH MINIMUM 2/	U.S. NO. 2 OR PROCESSING USABLE 3/	CULL 4/	TOTAL
LONG POTATOES	Percentages (%)			
ID 5/	76.6	17.3	6.1	100.0
ME 6/	69.8	19.2	11.0	100.0
MN	79.9	15.0	5.1	100.0
ND	77.7	17.6	4.7	100.0
OR	79.6	15.8	4.6	100.0
WA	80.6	15.2	4.2	100.0
WI	86.2	13.5	0.3	100.0

1/ Gross yield basis.

2/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service

3/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #2 or Processing grade, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

4/ Potatoes not meeting the requirements for U.S. #1, U.S. #2, or Processing grade, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

5/ Russet potatoes only.

6/ Percent of net yield – adjusted for field loss.